

the team with the best record in the National Hockey League. At the same time, the Stanley Cup was out of the reach of such a deserving team during those years.

Mr. Speaker, I join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District and the residents of Dallas who are Stars fans in congratulating the 1999 Stanley Cup Champions, the Dallas Stars. Thank you for bringing the cup home to our proud city.

#### HUNGER RELIEF IS CONFLICT PREVENTION

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to an OpEd by President Jimmy Carter ("First Step Toward Peace is Eradicating Hunger," International Herald Tribune, June 17, 1999). I ask that the text of this article be entered into the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to heed its wise message: that where there is mass hunger and poverty there is fertile ground for tyranny, civil strife, internal displacement, and social upheaval. Our own economic and security interests are threatened by the fact that one-fifth of the world's people lives in extreme poverty, struggling to survive on incomes equivalent to less than a dollar a day. And we know that an ounce of crisis prevention through well-spent poverty relief is worth of pound of cure, in the form of massive humanitarian operations, military intervention, and post-war reconstruction. A study by the Congressional Budget Office itself found a "striking correlation between economic malaise on the one hand, and domestic unrest on the other."

For impoverished countries that are serious about raising standards of living, there can be no substitute for good governance and sound economic policies. But even the best trade and investment-led strategies will fail if they leave the poor behind. And, as President Carter points out, agriculture is the economic backbone of most of the world's poorest countries, and the primary source of livelihoods for the poor, rural majority.

The United States took a significant step in the right direction last year by passing and enacting into law the "Africa Seeds of Hope Act," (H.R. 4283, now Public Law: 105-385). This measure was designed to better focus existing programs of assistance to Africa on the needs of rural producers who represent a majority of Africans, yet have the lowest incomes and suffer from the worst food shortages in the world. By focusing resources on farmers, the measure works to ensure the long-term political stability and economic growth of the world's most famine-prone region. Congress should closely follow its implementation, but next steps must include payment of arrears to the United Nations, passage of debt relief legislation, and a reversal in the decline of our foreign aid budget. These are our cheapest and surest lines of defense against costly and destabilizing wars and crippling constraints to our own economic growth and expansion.

[From the Paris International Herald Tribune, June 17, 1999]  
FIRST STEP TOWARD PEACE IS ERADICATING HUNGER

(By Jimmy Carter)

WASHINGTON—When the Cold War ended 10 years ago, we expected an era of peace. What we got instead was a decade of war.

The conflict in Kosovo is only the latest to embroil the international community. Conflicts have raged in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia in the 1990s, often involving the entire international community in costly relief operations and peacekeeping missions, frequently under hostile conditions. These conflicts—mostly civil wars—have been extraordinarily brutal, with most victims being children, women and the elderly.

Why has peace been so elusive? A recent report sponsored by Future Harvest and generated by the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo examines conflicts around the world and finds that—unlike that in Kosovo—most of today's wars are fueled by poverty, not by ideology.

The devastation occurs primarily in countries whose economies depend on agriculture but lack the means to make their farmland productive. These are developing countries such as Sudan, Congo, Colombia, Liberia, Peru, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka—places with poor rural areas where malnutrition and hunger are widespread. The report found that poorly functioning agriculture in these countries heightens poverty, which in turn sparks conflict.

This suggests an obvious but often overlooked path to peace: Raise the standard of living of the millions of rural people who live in poverty by increasing agricultural productivity. Not only does agriculture put food on the table, but it also provides jobs, both on and off the farm, that raise incomes. Thriving agriculture is the engine that fuels broader economic growth and development, thus paving the way for prosperity and peace.

The economies of Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan were built on strong agriculture. But many developing countries have shifted their priorities away from farming in favor of urbanization, or they have reduced investments in agriculture because of budget shortages. At the same time, industrialized countries continue to cut their foreign aid budgets, which fund vital scientific research and extension work to improve farming in developing countries.

Unfortunately, much of the farming technology developed in industrialized nations does not transfer to the climates and soils of developing nations. It is not a priority for agricultural giants in affluent nations to focus on the poor regions of the world or to share basic research advances with scientists from poor nations.

This neglect should end. Leaders of developing nations must make food security a priority. In the name of peace, it is critical that both developed and developing countries support cultural research and improved farming practices, particularly in nations often hit with drought and famine.

For example, the report finds that India, one of the world's largest and poorest nations, has managed to escape widespread violence in large measure because the Indian government made food security a priority.

Beginning in the 1960s, farmers in India were given the means to increase their agricultural output with technology packages that included improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and training. Today India no longer experiences famines as it did in the first half

of this century. India's food security contributes to its relative political stability.

While food is taken for granted in industrialized countries, many parts of the world—sub-Saharan Africa and large parts of Asia, for example—suffer serious food shortages. Today, per capita food production in sub-Saharan Africa is less than it was at the end of the 1950s. The report concludes that new wars will erupt if the underlying conditions that cause them are not improved.

The message is clear: There can be no peace until people have enough to eat. Hungry people are not peaceful people. The Future Harvest report is a reminder that investments in agricultural research today can cultivate peace tomorrow.

Former President Carter is chairman of the nonprofit Carter Center, which seeks to advance peace and health around the world. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG KENTUCKIANS FROM OHIO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL IN HARTFORD, KENTUCKY, WIN THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION"

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize 15 talented and patriotic young scholars from my district who competed in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" competition earlier this month.

I am pleased to recognize the class from Ohio County High School in Hartford, Kentucky who represented our Commonwealth in this national competition including teams from every state and the District of Columbia. These outstanding young Kentuckians are: Kyle Autry, Josh Benton, Hollie Bratcher, Jacqueline Bryant, Keara Daughtery, Jarrod Frizzell, Hillary Grant, Ashley Hale, Emily Harris, Erika Hawley, Michelle Jarvis, Nakayah Myers, Meredith Shrewsbury and Alex Taylor. They are coached by John Stofer, a teacher at Ohio County High School.

"We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" is the nation's most extensive program dedicated to educating young people about our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a Congressional hearing in which students defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. This format provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles while providing teachers with an excellent means of assessing performance.

This year's competition involved 1,500 schools and provided literature and course-related materials on the history and principles of constitutional democracy in the United States to more than 75,000 teachers and 24 million students.

High school competition begins at the congressional district level with teams from each school vying for the district championship. District winners go on to compete at a statewide